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Strategic Warning Staff

Washington, D.C. 20301

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S-0090/SWS

31 December 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: A/NIO/W

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Soviet Union-Afghanistan: Group of Soviet Forces
Afghanistan?

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1. The Soviet-Afghan Treaty of Friendship, Goodneighborliness and Cooperation signed December 5, 1978, which has been used by the USSR to justify intervention in Afghanistan, could serve Moscow as the basis for undertaking a wider combat role and basing of Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

2. Although the treaty does not contain references to the "Socialist Community" or "Socialist Internationalism" and does not specify military measures or circumstances for military consultations between the two countries, the treaty conveys a special relationship. This is most apparent in article four, dealing with military cooperation. It obliges the two parties to consult each other and to take appropriate measures to "ensure the security, independence, and territorial integrity of the two countries." This is a departure from the standard language contained in Moscow's "friendship and cooperation" treaties with other Third World countries which calls for consultations on appropriate actions in case of an attack or threat of an attack. The language of the Soviet-Afghan treaty is reminiscent of the 1966 mutual defense pact between the Soviet Union and Mongolia in pledging the two countries to "consult each other and by agreement take appropriate measures to insure the security, independence, and territorial integrity of the two countries." In the case of Soviet-Mongolian treaty, this provision has been interpreted by Moscow as authorizing the permanent stationing Soviet forces in Mongolia.

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